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Transgender Spectrum Conference Expands its Vision

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last year, some 200 participants gathered at the J.C. Penney Conference Center at the University of Missouri—St. Louis for the first annual Transgender Spectrum Conference. The interdisciplinary event featured presentations by scholars and professionals, interactive workshops, and discussion roundtables designed to educate individuals on a wide range of transgender topics.

Although 2014's event was successful, the second annual conference, held November 6 and 7, brought welcome changes. "Last year, it was great that someone thought to put on a transgender conference, but there were almost no transgender people," said Beth Gombos, a volunteer from SIUE who

presented in 2014. Capella Marissa, Director of Event Planning for the Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG) elaborated on the improvement: "Last year was more about transgender people. [This year] it's still about us but it's also for us. And with us."

MTUG is one of the dozens of organizations and departments to sponsor the conference. They provide training for corporations, hospitals, businesses and other large organizations designed to help them become more trans-aware and sensitive. When UMSL reached out to them to join the conference, they adapted their training program into one that spanned two days. "We appreciate UMSL very much as well as our partnerships," said Sayer Johnson, Executive Director and Co-founder of MTUG.

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Ad artwork for the Transgender Spectrum Conference

THE CURRENT ARCHIVES

Museum on Wheels Travels to Express Scripts

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The America's Disability Rights Museum on Wheels (DRMW) traveled to the parking lot of the Express Scripts building near the University of Missouri—St. Louis from October 28 to 29. The interactive museum on wheels hosts a collection of displays, information, and photos that depict the movement for equal rights undertaken by individuals with disabilities throughout U.S. history.

The outside of the 48-foot museum is decorated with graphics of individuals who have taken part in the disability rights movement (DRM) and quotes from some of those individuals, including Helen Keller and George H.W. Bush. Inside, the museum is laid out in a timeline format along the walls. The exhibit includes five different sections that chronologically detail the earliest history of the struggle for disability rights to the present day standing of the U.S. for those rights.

"Most people know nothing about this history. They didn't even know that



The America's Disability Rights Museum on Wheels came to Express Scripts' parking lot October 28 and 29

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

there is a disability rights movement... Even if all they learn is that there is a disability rights movement, that's great. People come in here and they are astonished at what these people managed to accomplish in such a short space of

time," said Alison Gilkey, co-curator of the DRMW.

The displays begin with an explanation of eugenics, the belief that the humankind can be improved by eliminating "defective" individuals and

promoting the reproduction of individuals with "good" traits. The belief originally stemmed in the 1800s. The 1927 Supreme Court *Buck v. Bell* decision allowed states to enforce

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GAME CORNER

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents: Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, November 13. Solvers will be eligible for a valuable prize determined by a drawing on Thursday, December 3 at the Fibonacci Day festivities.

Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

Mr. O'Leary pondered in November
 Trying very hard to remember
 How Calculus might
 Set this problem aright

But he couldn't and its almost December

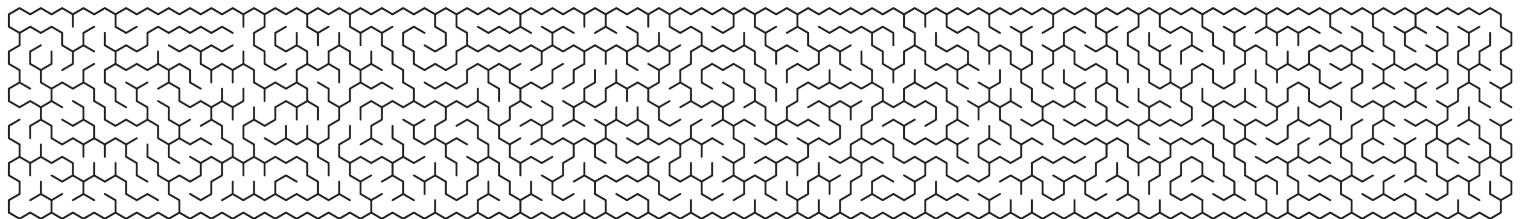
Problem: A plywood box with a square base and an open top is to hold 32 ft³.

The cost of the plywood is \$1.50 per ft².

Find the dimensions of the box that minimize the cost of the box.

Please note: Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and the UMSL Math Club presents "The Art of Problem Solving" on Wednesday, November 11 in ESH 304 at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments at 3:00 p.m.

Difficulty: Supplemental Reading



THE UNDERCURRENT

By Kristen Flood IT'S NOVEMBER, SHOULD WE START PLAYING CHRISTMAS MUSIC?



ALEX OLIVER,

Junior, Information Systems

"It's not even December yet, so why should Christmas music be playing when Christmas is over a month away! That's just silly."



LAVELL MONGER,

Senior, Anthropology

"No. We shouldn't play Christmas music or sell Christmas trees in November because we have the best holiday, Thanksgiving. I love food."



KALLIE REED,

Junior, English

"No. I think it's a little early for Christmas music."

MON 58
35

TUE 64
48

WED 66
46

THU 56
46

FRI 52
33

SAT 57
38

SUN 60
41

Veterans Center Will Hold Events for Veterans Day

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Veterans Day is November 11 and the Veterans Center at the University of Missouri—St. Louis will be sponsoring some events in honor of the day. Rebecca McMenamin, the manager of Veterans and Military Services at UMSL, and Jim Craig, an associate professor in the Military Studies department, spoke to *The Current* about the events that will take place on Veterans Day. There will be a flag raising ceremony in front of Woods Hall and a breakfast served afterward in the Veterans Center. These events will take place from 7:30 to 10 a.m. After the morning events, the Student Veterans Association (SVA) will sponsor a luncheon from 12 to 1:30 p.m. which will include a 30-minute viewing of “Veteran Nation.”

“Veteran Nation” is a 30 minute documentary on how former soldiers in the United States have been treated from Bunker Hill to Baghdad. Afterwards, a veteran panel with five generations of veterans will lead a discussion of the film. “The goal of the SVA is to better understand the veteran’s experience. There are 3% of UMSL students

who are veterans, and they have experiences that the other 97% do not have. This is not to say that the student majority do not have experiences that the veterans can share as well. So we want to bring these two groups together to have a conversation about what it means to be a veteran, and what obligations our society have to those who serve our country,” Craig said.

Events headed by the Veterans Center include a donation of real Christmas trees for the holidays to veterans and their families December 5 and 6. The center will also be collecting Toys for Tots for the Marine Corps for Christmas. In addition, there will be a food drive for the St. Patrick’s Center at 4532 Lindell Blvd. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, the St. Patrick Center provides housing, employment and health-care to people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. McMenamin gave an overview about the activities that are being scheduled at the Veterans Center. “We are trying to do more service based projects to better enhance awareness of the veteran experience on campus,” she said.

A \$1,000 scholarship for the spring

2016 semester will be awarded to the artist who submits the best design for a mural that is to be painted in the hallway outside of the Veterans Center. The College of Arts and Sciences is awarding the scholarship. The theme of the mural will be “student veteran identity.” The painting of the mural is expected to take place between December 17 and January 17. “We would like to inspire our student veterans to think about their identity, but also to engage the idea of how former soldiers are not only veterans, but students as well. They

are veterans and citizens, veterans and family members, and they are veterans and church members. So we want to use that wall to help veterans who come to the Veteran Center to remember that it is not just about being in the Vet Center, it is about being a part of this community. And your identity as a vet is important, but it is not the only thing you are. So this is important in helping veterans navigate the change from being soldiers to being students,” Craig said.

For more information about the Veterans Center, call (314) 516-7681.



The flags near the UMSL Campus Police and Gallery 210

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

Museum on Wheels Travels to Express Scripts

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

compulsory sterilization of “unfit” people. Forced sterilization of over 64,000 people took place between 1907 and 1963 in the U.S. Ultimately the Holocaust and World War II atrocities exposed the moral and intellectual flaws of eugenics and led to significant changes in U.S. attitudes about the concept.

Another section of the DRMW chronicles the complex history of the civil rights movement from WWII to 1990. A timeline notes the significant events that paved the way to better equality for those with disabilities. Photos line the walls of individuals who took part in protests that ultimately led up to the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). July 26, 1990 marked President George Bush’s signing of the ADA, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities.

A final section of the exhibit tells visitors where the U.S. stands today in equality for those with disabilities. Universal design is a significant component in working towards equality for all people. Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by everyone, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. It includes seven principles that aim to create environments, products, and communications that everyone can utilize.

Developments in assistive technol-



Inside the Disability Rights Museum on Wheels

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

ogies today are another important part in promoting inclusivity and access for people with disabilities. One complex invention is the exoskeleton suit, a bionic suit that allows individuals with physical disabilities or those who are paralyzed to walk. Other developments in assistive technologies include the Google driverless car, Apple Watch, and the braille converter.

However, there are still many obstacles that individuals with disabili-

ties face. A list included seven issues that are widely problematic in U.S. culture today. These include policy and civil rights violations, and even life and limb risks that those without disabilities may be unaware of. Another issue is the Social Security Disability (SSD) funding crisis. SSD is set to run out money next year unless Congress votes to transfer money from the retirement fund into the disability fund.


Issues in education also present

challenges. In 2011-2012, 80.9 percent of students with disabilities receiving special education spent 40 percent or more of each day in regular classrooms with students without disabilities. The rest of the day was spent in isolated classrooms. Eighty percent of public high school students earned a diploma during the 2011-2012 school year, while only 61 percent of students with disabilities earned a diploma.


Another problem is the employment gap. In 2014, employment of those with disabilities rose 10.8 percent, but from an extremely low employment figure. Discrimination, being trapped in poverty, and the risk of losing vital benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare all contribute to the employment gap.

The DRMW is sponsored by U.S. Business Leadership Network, which helps companies like Express Scripts with their inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce. “It helps to try and change the corporate culture, which is ‘we’re scared of people with disabilities,’ to ‘...look at the talent group we’re missing by not employing people with disabilities,’” said Gilkey.

This year is the 25 year anniversary of the signing of the ADA, which was the main inspiration behind the DRMW. Its tour began in North Carolina in June, and thousands of people have visited the museum throughout its stops. St. Louis was the DRMW’s last stop of 2015 but it will pick up again in March 2016, traveling to many locations on the West Coast.



Are you a Veteran?
Would you like
to be part of a
National
Organization for
Student Veterans?
Join Us
Every Tuesday from
3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
in the Veterans
Center
(Clark Hall, room 211)
for our Student
Veterans
Association
Meetings.



Transgender Spectrum Conference Expands its Vision at UMSL

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

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One of the focuses of this year's conference was to provide content and support for the younger generation of transgender people. Saturday included special programming for children between the ages of 5 and 12 and for teens between 13 and 19 years old. A number of roundtables and workshops focused specifically on issues surrounding the growth and development of children who occupy the transgender spectrum. "Because kids are coming out as trans younger and younger, they need support and, in a lot of cases, those supports aren't already in place yet," said Marissa. "Places like this can help people come out easier and happier."

The conference provided new experiences for many, even those well-acquainted with the transgender community. Jessie Eikmann, senior, English, facilitated a table discussion called "Gender Is Fluid, So Why Can't Language Be?" One of the participants, professor Adrienne Davis of Washington University in St. Louis, who also presented a paper at the conference, identifies zirsself by the pronouns ze and

zir, whereby ze is the subject form and zir the object. "It was really interesting because I had never met someone who goes by those pronouns. I thought ze had a unique perspective on how to broach the subject of non-binary pronouns in classrooms and with the administration at zir school," said Eikmann.

Lena Ezell, senior, psychology, became interested in gender studies late in their educational career and is now pursuing a Certificate in Gender Studies. In addition to volunteering as a media intern, Ezell got the opportunity to participate in a number of interactive events.

One such workshop, "Transgender Spirituality: Everything Broken and Whole," was a favorite for them, especially as someone who identifies as both a Christian and a non-binary person. The speaker of the workshop was Reverend Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe, M. Div. of the First Unitarian Church of Alton. Rev. Sunshine, who identifies as genderqueer, spoke to the audience about "embodied spirituality," or the aspect of human spirituality that involves physical experiences. Ezell said that, although they are not a Unitarian, they valued

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VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11th, 2015

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

7:30 AM
In front of Woods Hall
Breakfast afterwards in Veterans Center

FREE LUNCH AND VIEWING OF "VETERAN NATION"

12:00 - 1:30 PM
MSC 316
30 min documentary
Veteran panel discussion

UMSL Hosts Transgender Spectrum Conference

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Continued from Page 4

the discussion and especially Sunshine’s focus on spirituality as “living lives of meaning and purpose.”

Although transgender participation was improved this year, Gender Studies Program Director Sally Ebest thinks that next year can be even better. Next year she would like to see “more representation from within the black community, both as presenters and panelists, better advertising, [and] better funding.”

For those interested in continuing the conversation on the transgender spectrum, visit and like the Transgender Spectrum Conference STL Facebook page. UMSL students can also visit the Office of Sexuality and Gender Diversity, located in 494 Lucas Hall.

The Current

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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Eligibility:

- Possess an undergraduate degree (or close) in a STEM discipline, including computer science, instructional technology, information science or statistics
- Meet basic requirements for the UMSL Graduate School, <http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/future/index.html>
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Information: Dr. Charles Granger, UMSL
239 Research Complex
Phone: (314)-516-6220
Email: grangerch@umsl.edu

UMSL Education



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Open House: Tuesday, Sept 15, 10am-2pm, 306 SSB Tower

Workshops in partnership w/ Student Retention Service:

- ◆ Returning Students: Polish Your Rusty Tools for Online Success ~Sept 2, 2pm, MSC 225
- ◆ Online Classes: The People Behind the Screens ~Sept 8, 430pm, MSC 225

UMSL Topples #1 Seeded Bellarmine

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

After facing Bellarmine University earlier in the season to a 2-2 tie, the University of Missouri—St. Louis women's soccer team knew they had the ability to challenge the number 13 nationally ranked (Division II) Knights. Going into the semifinal round of the

Great Valley Lakes Conference (GLVC) postseason tournament, top-seeded Bellarmine was a clear favorite over UMSL with a record of 16-1-2 to the Tritons' 11-3-4. The women, however, outshot Bellarmine 13-11 in their previous meeting and scored both goals in the first half of that contest. This showed that coming out of the gates strong was key in keeping the Knights off balance.

UMSL continued this strategy, firing on all cylinders November 6 when they traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to take on Bellarmine for the second time with the winner earning the right to play in the GLVC Championship. Less than five minutes into the matchup, McKayla Harder, freshman, psychology, took a well-placed cross from teammate Jaylon Griffith, senior, business marketing, and found the back of the net with an excellent header for the lead.

Bellarmino was quick to respond, netting their own goal off the foot of Darcy Egan into the right corner past UMSL goalkeeper Megan Ohm, senior, psychology. Later in the half, Ohm, who sports an .825 save percentage on the year, redeemed herself with a diving stop to keep GLVC offensive player of the year Mary Beth Gorham from a scoring opportunity. The teams went into halftime with the score tied 1-1.

After the break, the Tritons and Knights battled it out once more. UMSL appeared the more aggressive team, taking nine shots in the second half to Bellarmine's four. Additionally, UMSL led the night in terms of accuracy, firing seven of their 14 total shots on goal, challenging the abilities of the Knight's goalkeeper. Whatever the reason, perhaps from fatigue or a situational decision, Bellarmine decided to replace their starting goalie in the

70th minute.

That seemed to be all the change the Tritons needed to turn it up a notch. Less than a minute after the switch, UMSL capitalized upon the circumstances. Seeing an opening, midfielder Cassie McFadden, senior, nursing, fired with her left foot from 40 yards out, the ball just passing over the head of Bellarmine's fresh goalkeeper. With just her second goal of the season, McFadden helped secure the lead for the Tritons with just 20 minutes left.

The goal proved to be the game winner as UMSL would hold onto the one-goal advantage for the remainder of the half to win 2-1 and secure their place in the championship game. This will be their fifth trip to the finals.

The Tritons faced Truman State, who knocked off powerhouse Quincy in penalty kicks, on November 8 for the GLVC title. The Bulldogs won their previous matchup in UMSL's home opener on September 13 despite the Tritons outshooting them 16-6.

Truman State put up a goal late in the first half of the championship match and added another early in the second half. The two goals were more than enough for the win over UMSL. The Bulldogs were simply more effective with the ball as UMSL once again outshot Truman 14-4 but failed to capitalize on the tries.

Weekly Sports Calendar

Tuesday 10

Volleyball vs.
Maryville
7 p.m.
at Maryville

Men's Basketball vs.
SLU
7 p.m.
at SLU

Friday 13

Volleyball vs.
MO S&T
7 p.m.
Home

Saturday 14

Men's Swimming vs.
Lindenwood
12 p.m.
at Lindenwood

Women's Swimming vs.
Lindenwood
12 p.m.
at Lindenwood

Volleyball vs.
Drury
1 p.m.
Home

Men's Basketball vs.
Ferris State
2 p.m. EST
Away

Saturday 14

Women's Basketball vs.
Georgetown College
5 p.m.
Home

Sunday 15

Men's Basketball vs.
Grand Valley State
4 p.m. EST
Away



Thank you, Veterans.



Stop by Triton Treats on Veterans Day for a free treat.

And veterans receive \$1.00 off any purchase over \$5.00 at all Sodexo Campus Dining locations on November 11th, 2015.

*must show military ID or proof of service.

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QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES

What Amazon Has in Capital, It Lacks in Heart

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

In a fit of ironic news better suited for satire website The Onion, popular shopping website Amazon.com has now opened its own brick-and-mortar bookstore. Patrons in the Seattle area can buy books as

well as Amazon branded devices such as the Kindle, the Kindle Fire, and the Echo. It looks very much like a classic bookstore, with its display cases, shelving units, and cozy reading areas complete with off-set comfy chairs and end tables.

It is ironic because Amazon is the number one reason why companies like Barnes and Noble and the late Borders and Waldenbooks have either expired or have been circling the drain; it is why smaller shops have fallen, unable to compete with Amazon Prime membership perks and free shipping. It is ironic because Amazon dared to open a bookstore in a location less than two hundred miles from the most well-known 'indie' shop in

the country, Powell's in Portland, one of the few to hold their own against the Jeff Bezos behemoth machine.

What is more convenient, surfing a website or walking into a physical store? This is the question that Amazon's user base is going to have to answer for themselves if the company is bent on expanding its storefront assault on America. There is a sharp difference between running an item depot and running an actual store. There is also a difference between diversifying one's options and spreading yourself too thin, to the point that other ventures begin to suffer in consequence.

2015 is shaping up to be the year that Amazon outdoes itself in every way. It wants to be a grocer, a handmade knick-knack shop, a bookstore, a music provider, a TV channel, a movie theatre—basically, the one-and-done location for all your needs. And yet here it is,

opening a physical store like it's the early 2000s. Yes, Amazon is probably expanding well beyond what it really needs to be, but that will not be the thing that

drags it down in the end.

Ultimately, Amazon lacks what a shop like Powell's has been establishing since 1971: a sense of community. The website has its loyal fanbase and its fervent fan cliques, but until recently it has never been one for a local presence. What few attempts at location-based service have always been distant and short-lived; just recently, Amazon shuttered its local daily deals site, its version of Groupon. Without a physical building, Amazon has been a great place for a cheap deal, not so much for a place to belong; there is no warm atmosphere to linger in, no friendly face to connect to the name (sorry, Bezos, your face is not a warm one, despite all your attempts to be the next cozy Steve Jobs figurehead of tech).

If the past is anything to go by—and it is—flashy websites come and go, the online marketplace eventually favors a new superstar, but the community shop is still the old favorite. If there is no effort to connect to the user base as people first, if Amazon does not establish itself in Seattle as a place to go and belong, then we may see their future physical locales close up shop before they can even celebrate their first year anniversary. Maybe they can ask Circuit City for some advice on how to deal with selling single-use abandoned building space, just in case.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Veterans Day is about the Living, Not the Dead

JIM CRAIG
CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS STUDIES

I won't be visiting a national cemetery this Veterans Day and I hope you don't either. It's not that I don't care. It's because I do.

My father was a soldier whose service in Vietnam eventually killed him at the age of 87. He was laid to rest on a cold day last February among the gardens of stone at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

My grandfather was a soldier, as was his father before him. Both are buried a short walk from the eternal flame at Arlington National Cemetery. I have two uncles who died in our nation's wars.

I love them and I am proud to carry their surname, but I won't visit a grave on Wednesday. Veterans Day isn't about the dead; it is about our living veterans.

There are two national holidays where Americans consider our veterans, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. On Memorial Day we remember and celebrate the accomplishments, the legacy,

and the gift of freedom given to us by service-members of the past. It is a day for grand speeches and laid wreaths. It is a day to visit our national cemeteries and reflect on the sacrifice of service-men and women.

Veterans Day is harder. On November 11th we remember those who served and returned. The consequences of war, especially among those who experienced it firsthand, can't be addressed with a speech or a wreath.

Nearly all veterans experienced separation from family. Many have feared for and fought for their lives. Some veterans experienced trauma the likes of which most of us cannot fathom. Too many still hear the guns, smell the smoke, and relive events from 5, 15, even 50 years ago.

Undoubtedly, many of you have heard this staggering statistic: 22 veterans kill themselves every day. What do you know about those 22 veterans? Contrary to popular belief, the majority are older than 60 and the minority are enrolled in VA healthcare. Only a small

Continued on Page 8



UMSL

Campus Community Forum

Join UMSL faculty, staff, and students for a community conversation about the **S.A.L.T. Initiative**, principles that unite, and how each of these life-based principles can serve as a healing and unifying force in our campus community:

Serve
Affirm
Love
Transform

Thursday, November 12: 4-6 PM
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*Sponsored by the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council
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For more information, call 314-516-5695*

Crowd Packs Touhill for “Carmina Burana”

CATE MARQUIS
STAFF WRITER

Celebrating its 50th anniversary season, the dance presenting organization Dance St. Louis brought back crowd favorite “Carmina Burana” for three performances, November 6 to 8, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

When this Nashville Ballet production was performed at the Touhill in 2013, it quickly sold out. The riveting production features dancers, elaborate costumes and staging, big choirs, and a live orchestra. On November 6 this year, they played it again to a packed house.

Dance St. Louis commissioned an extra treat, “La Fontana,” which premiered before the main performance. The piece featured dancers from St. Louis Ballet with choreography by Dance St. Louis’ artistic director Michael Uthoff, set to J.S. Bach’s Oboe and Violin Concerto in C Minor. The dancers’ costumes were inspired by classical Greece, as did the dancers’ poses in this graceful, pleasing ballet.

For “La Fontana,” three nymphs took the stage first, dressed in flowing white short dresses reminiscent of the goddess Diana. They were joined by three male dancers in red Greek tunics, who were joined by three more female dancers in long pastel-colored dresses, elbow-length purple gloves, and velvet chokers. These costumes suggested late-19th century ballgowns but their dancing and poses also echoed ancient Greece. Periodically, there were pauses as the dancers posed in tableau like images from Greek urns or statues. The result was a very gratifying piece whose historical references were a perfect match for the evening’s main offering.

After an intermission, the curtain lifted on the dancers and musicians of “Carmina Burana.” The music may be familiar, as it has been used in movies. Composer Carl Orff based his piece on a series of medieval poems discovered in 1803 in a German monastery. They vary widely from satirical or moral critiques of corrupt religious leaders to odes to love and springtime.

Orff’s composition is organized in three parts: the celebration of youth and nature titled “Spring,” the dark dangers of drinking and corruption titled “In the Tavern,” and balancing pleasure and the divine titled “The Court of Love.” The sections are bracketed by the stirring “O Fortuna,” with the concept of unpredictable fate personified by Lady Luck and the Wheel of Fortune.

“Carmina Burana” was just as grand and electrifying as the subject. The Nashville Ballet’s dance was choreographed by Paul Vasterling, with music by the Bach Society of St. Louis, the St. Louis Children’s Choirs, and the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ University Singers and Orchestra. Vocal soloists were Stella Markou, Adam Stefano, and



The roasting Swan is wrapped in flames, in Nashville Ballet’s “Carmina Burana,” presented by Dance St. Louis at the Touhill, Nov. 6-8
PHOTO BY HEATHER THORNE, COURTESY OF DANCE ST. LOUIS ©

Tim Waurick.

Kayla Rowser danced the central role as Fortuna; the production begins with her at center stage, surrounded by an enormous skirt that symbolizes the Wheel of Fortune and ringed by medieval-costumed dancers. The medieval dancers circle around her, laying down as if in worship. They then grab and spin around the huge Wheel as Fortuna, performing a series of mechanical gestures, while the choirs sing the electrifying “O Fortuna.” The result was riveting.

“Spring” brings together soloists Flora (Alexandra Meister) and The Sun (Nicolas Scheuer), leading the dancers in joyful celebrations of nature, youth, and young love, culminating in dancers around a maypole and bedecked in colorful ribbons.

All this brightness gives way to the sinister with “In the Tavern.” Drunken dancers in ragged costumes are joined by the Bad Abbott (Jorge Cardozo) and the roasted Swan (Katie Vasilopoulos). The Swan is wrapped in a cloth decorated with flames, one of the most striking pieces in the production.

Cupid (Mollie Sansone) arrives in white with red shoes, signaling the transition to the “Court of Love,” where the parchment dancers restore balance between earthly pleasures and the divine. The work concludes with a reprise of “O Fortuna,” and a rousing finale that brought the audience to their feet for a sustained ovation.

The encore performance of “Carmina Burana” did not disappoint, generating the same power and sense of awe as in 2013. For more information on upcoming events at the Touhill, visit touhill.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Veterans Day is about the Living, Not the Dead

JIM CRAIG

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AND VETERANS STUDIES

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percentage is under 25 and a significant number of veteran suicides are women. Context matters.

Yes, some need immediate help. But let’s be clear, most American veterans (especially student veterans) are not damaged from their service. On the contrary, veterans have higher employment rates, higher incomes and report greater satisfaction with their lives than their civilian counterparts. Veterans are more likely to be business owners and their civic engagement rate outpaces national averages. In many ways, veterans are the exemplars of our society.

It is the spectrum of veterans that makes Veterans Day hard. Veterans Day is about people. You can’t visit a grave, lay a wreath and move on. You have to deal with the living. You have to find ways to assist and celebrate.

Here at the University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL) there are nearly 400 student veterans and about 100 faculty and staff veterans. Over the past three years, UMSL has been working very hard to establish programs designed to better understand veterans, support them, advise them, tutor them, and, where appropriate, refer them for further help. Amazingly, in three short years UMSL has become home to the

country’s premier academic department designed to study and teach about the veteran experience.

You should be proud of what your school has accomplished. Not only are we attracting veterans at higher rates, we are graduating them at higher rates too. Last summer UMSL led the creation of the St. Louis Veterans Pre-Collegiate Fellowship—a successful academic transition program for veterans who are considering college. And this week UMSL was named as one of the top colleges in the country for veterans.

On this Veterans Day, I am taking action. UMSL is taking action, and so should you.

How can you act? It’s simple—meet your veteran classmates.

They sit next to you in class. They are in your clubs and organizations. They are in line with you at ProHo and in the Nosh. They ride with you on the Metro-link. You could visit the Veterans Center (211 Clark Hall), too.

Don’t just say thanks, get to know them. Ask about service, but more importantly learn about why each came to UMSL. Ask about family and aspirations.

So this Veterans Day, don’t visit the dead. Call on the living. Get to know those who are among us.

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